

[Proclamation 6768 of February 10, 1995]

AMERICAN HEART MONTH, 1995

(By the President of the United States of America)

A PROCLAMATION

Throughout history, the heart has been a symbol of health and well-being. Yet nothing now overshadows Americans' health as much as heart disease—the leading cause of death among men and women. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels kill nearly a million Americans each year, most from the effects of atherosclerosis, the narrowing and stiffening of blood vessels from the buildup of plaque that usually begins early in life.

Today, Americans are enjoying the rewards of the progress humanity has made in understanding and treating cardiovascular disease. Advances in diagnosis make it possible to see the heart beat without the use of invasive procedures. Thousands of heart attack victims are being saved by the rapid administration of drugs to dissolve blood clots. Soon, gene therapy may be able to prevent the smooth muscle cell multiplication that contributes to the narrowing of blood vessels. Perhaps most important, we have greater understanding of how to prevent the development of heart disease. By controlling blood pressure and blood cholesterol, being physically active, and not smoking cigarettes, more Americans can have the chance to lead long, healthy lives.

The Federal Government has contributed to these successes by supporting research and education through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Through its commitment to research, its programs to heighten public awareness, and its vital network of dedicated volunteers, the American Heart Association also has played a crucial role in bringing about these remarkable accomplishments.

Yet the heart has not revealed all of its mysteries. No one knows why heart disease begins. And, while it is known that heart disease develops differently in men and women, the reasons for those variations are still being studied. About 50 million Americans continue to suffer from hypertension, a major cause of stroke, and 1.25 million Americans have heart attacks every year.

Conquering these diseases requires unwavering national and personal commitment. On the national level, the Federal Government will continue to support research into the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease. On the personal level, Americans can take steps to prevent heart disease from striking their families, including teaching their children heart-healthy habits. Working together, we can make the tragedy of heart disease a nightmare of the past.

In recognition of the need for all Americans to become involved in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843, 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 1995 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.●

LOUIS E. CURDES

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding life and service of Louis E. Curdes. Mr. Curdes, who recently passed away at his home in Fort Wayne, IN, served his country with honor, and was a recognized hero of World War II.

Mr. Curdes demonstrated his skill and valor during his first 2 weeks as a fighter pilot in World War II, when he shot down a total of five German planes to become a flying ace. Several months later, when his plane was damaged in fighting, he was forced down in Italy and spent months in war prisons, until his eventual escape and walk to freedom.

Late in the war, Louis Curdes saw action in the South Pacific. He shot down aircraft from Japan and Italy, as well as Germany. Two of the Italian aircraft he shot down are displayed at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

In 1963, Mr. Curdes retired as a lieutenant colonel after 22 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. He earned numerous medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Air Medals. Upon his retirement, he began Curdes Builders Co., and devoted his life to his family and work in Fort Wayne, IN.

Mr. President, it is with great respect that I call to my colleagues' attention the contributions Louis Curdes made to his country. He is truly an example and inspiration for all who follow him. ●

HOMICIDES BY GUNSHOT IN NEW YORK CITY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today, as I have done each week of the 104th Congress, to announce to the Senate that during the past week, 6 people were murdered by gunshot in New York City, bringing this year's total to 95.

Today I received a letter from Sarah Brady, chairman of Handgun Control Inc., which brought some very welcome news. The letter, which not coincidentally arrives on the 1-year anniversary of the implementation of the Brady law, announces the results of a new survey unequivocally proving that the Brady law is working. Conducted jointly by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Handgun Control, Inc., the survey of 115 law enforcement agencies in 27 States reveals that background checks in those jurisdictions prevented the sale of guns to over 19,000 persons prohibited by law from purchasing firearms. Mrs. Brady also informs me that, according to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms estimates, the Brady law has prevented some 70,000 persons nationwide from illegally purchasing firearms.

Mr. President, this demonstrates that Congress can make a difference in

the fight to reduce gun violence. I hope it will convince the Senate to adopt future measures to address this terrible problem.

I ask that the letter from Mrs. Brady be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

FEBRUARY 27, 1995.

Hon. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MOYNIHAN: Thanks to you, it's working. The results are in! Tuesday, February 28, 1995 marks the first anniversary of the implementation of the Brady Law and a new survey confirms that the new law is helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Attached for your review are the results of a survey conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Handgun Control, Inc. The survey found that background checks in 115 state and local jurisdictions, covering all or part of 27 states, stopped 19,000 felons and other prohibited persons from obtaining handguns.

While that is no national reporting requirement, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms estimates that background checks in the past year stopped 70,000 convicted felons and other prohibited persons from making an over-the-counter purchase of a handgun. Forty-thousand of those denials came from "new" states which did not previously meet the requirements of the Brady Law. As a result of these background checks, hundreds of arrests have been made of those wanted on outstanding warrants.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to call HCI's Marie Carbone.

On behalf of Jim and myself, please accept our deepest appreciation for all that you did to make these results possible.

Sincerely,

SARAH BRADY,
Chair.●

RULES OF THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

● Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, today I am filing the committee rules of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. I ask that the rules be printed in the RECORD.

The rules follow:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING—JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

(S. Res. 4 §104, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. (1977)¹

(a)(1) There is established a Special Committee on Aging (hereafter in this section referred to as the "special committee") which shall consist of nineteen Members. The Members and chairman of the special committee shall be appointed in the same manner and at the same time as the Members and chairman of a standing committee of the Senate. After the date on which the majority and minority Members of the special committee are initially appointed on or after the effective date of title I of the Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977, each time a vacancy occurs in the Membership of the special committee, the number of Members of the special committee shall be reduced by one until the number of Members of the special committee consists of nine Senators.

(2) For purposes of paragraph 1 of rule XXV; paragraphs 1, 7(a)(1)-(2), 9, and 10(a) of

¹As amended by S. Res. 78, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. (1977), S. Res. 376, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. (1978), S. Res. 274, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. (1979), S. Res. 389, 96th Cong., 2d Sess. (1980).